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Wednesday, February 15, 2017 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroP

SCARJO ISN'T INTO MONOGAMY

The actress says it's too much work. 10

Eagles should take advantage of deep running back class. 14

Explore the art of erotica. 12

'AN ATTACK ON OUR COMMUNITY'

Muslim business owners in Philadelphia say Trump's rhetoric on immigration and refugee bans fuels Islamophobia. 4

US ETHICS: WHITE HOUSE SHOULD PROBE CONWAY

1 The White House should investigate whether presidential adviser Kellyanne Conway violated government ethics rules when she made a public endorsement of Ivanka Trump products, and consider disciplinary action, the Office of Government Ethics said in a letter. Conway's comments last week after retailer Nordstrom announced it was dropping the branded line of Trump's

daughter Ivanka prompted criticism from Republican and Democratic lawmakers amid concern she may have violated ethics rules. "There is strong reason to believe that Ms. Conway has violated the Standards of Conduct and that disciplinary action is warranted," the letter read. REUTERS

US SECRET SERVICE DIRECTOR STEPPING DOWN

2 Secret Service Director Joseph Clancy plans to step down next month, the agency said, two years after he took charge of the agency following high-profile security lapses by the service responsible for protecting the president. "Congratulations Dir Clancy on your retirement! The men & women of the @SecretService are grateful for your 29 years of service & leadership," the Secret Service said on Twitter. Clancy will leave on March 4, his departure means that President Donald Trump will be able to select his own security chief. The Secret Service has almost 7,000 employees and is charged with protecting the president and his family as well as combating counterfeiting. Barack Obama named Clancy head of the Secret Service in February 2015 after he had served as acting director for four months. REUTERS

KIM JONG UN'S HALF-BROTHER MURDERED

3 The estranged half-brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has been murdered in Malaysia, a South Korean government source said on Tuesday. Kim Jong Nam, the older half brother of Kim Jong Un, was known to spend a significant amount of his time outside North Korea and had spoken out publicly against his family's dynastic control of the isolated state. The South Korean

government source who spoke to Reuters did not immediately provide further details. In Washington, A U.S. government source said the United States believed that North Korean agents were responsible for the murder, but did not provide firm evidence to support that conclusion. REUTERS

SIX ALARM BLAZE

5 Toronto firefighters battle a six-alarm blaze at the Badminton and Racquet Club, near Yonge Street and St. Clair Avenue West on Tuesday. The intesection was closed as was the subway stop. GETTY IMAGES

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

EVACUEES FROM CALIF. DAM CAN RETURN HOME

4 Californians who were ordered to evacuate due to a threat from the tallest dam in the United States can now safely return to their homes and businesses may resume operations, a county sheriff said on Tuesday. A previous evacuation order has been reduced to an evacuation warning, Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea told a news conference, after water management officials drained enough water from the Oroville Dam. The warning means that people can return but should be prepared to evacuate again if necessary, Honea said. Both the primary and backup drainage channels of the dam, known as spillways, were damaged after a buildup of water that resulted from an extraordinarily wet winter in Northern California that followed years of severe drought. REUTERS

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CRISTABELLE TUMOLA, WEB EDITOR

Everything old really is new again. Nokia is reportedly set to debut a new version of its iconic 3310 phone at the end of this month. Beloved for its long battery life and indestructible body, the cell phone will be an improvement on the 17-year-old original, with nostalgic remnants of its predecessor. What's next? A revamped Motorola Razr?

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Homeowner in Northwest Philadelphia shows disgust with Islamophobia. GETTY IMAGES

Philly's Muslim businessmen troubled by Trump's Islamophobic talk

The president's policies on immigration and refugees are fueling anti-Muslim sentiment, many say.

HAYDEN MITMAN
@MetroPhilly
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Muslim business owners in New York City recently responded to President Donald Trump's refugee and immigration orders by closing their shops for eight hours and gathering for a massive rally and call to prayer in downtown Brooklyn.

In Philadelphia, Muslim and Arab business owners haven't organized any anti-Trump demonstrations, but they harbor grave concerns about the actions of the new president.

"The more we see the president and his cabinet talk about Islamophobia, the more we can see this as an attack on our community," said Marwan Kreidie, executive director of Philadelphia's Arab American Development Corporation. "What he [Trump] is doing is empowering racists … and, we are going to fight it."

Kreidie said that he's heard from those in his organization — which he said works with "hundreds of people each month," mostly immigrants and first-generation Philadelphians — that there are worries about family members overseas and what might happen to them if the travel ban had been enforced.

Last week, a federal appeals court unanimously voted to uphold a suspension on a travel ban to several Arab nations that had been imposed by Trump. The ban would have kept anyone traveling from seven Middle Eastern nations — Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen — from entering the U.S.

But, the ban wouldn't have effected just Muslims, Kreidie said. Many of the Arab-American individuals his organization works with are Christians. Furthermore, about 80 to 85 percent of Philadelphia's Muslim population are African-Americans, not immigrants, he said.

To Mikal Shabazz, resident Imam at Masjidullah Incorporated, a mosque and learning center in the city's West Oak Lane neighborhood, and a member of Philadelphia's Universal Muslim Business Association, the travel ban might not impact him personally or many of the Muslims in Philadelphia's African-American community directly, but it could have dire consequences for those in our armed forces stationed overseas.

Shabazz, who said he served as an Army officer in 2003 to 2004 as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, worked closely with translators who put their lives in danger by working with the American military. If those translators weren't given the opportunity to have themselves and perhaps, their families to come to America, they could be left to die in a hostile country.

"What would happen if they should want to come here and they can't do it?" asked Shabazz. "This is just bad for so many reasons."

He added that in his experience in working to stabilize the community overseas by helping rebuild educational systems and infrastructure, Trump's proposed ban has the "potential to create more harm than good."

"The more we see the president and his cabinet talk about Islamophobia, the more we can see this as an attack on our community."

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The #1 reason infants get cavities

WRITTEN BY
Amy Smith

Are your children's teeth as healthy as they could be? With February being National Children's Dental Health Month, we tapped a premier pediatric dental expert for some insider tips.

As parents, we'd like our babies and toddlers to go to bed at a regular time and easily fall asleep. But one very common nightly bedtime ritual is the leading cause of cavities—giving them a bottle of milk or juice to help them fall asleep.

Jason M. Bresler, D.M.D., a well-respected and experienced Philadelphia pediatric dentist at Doc Bresler's Cavity Busters, frequently sees very young patients with cavities.

"Putting your baby or toddler to bed with a bottle filled with milk or juice provides bacteria with an all-night, all-you-can-eat buffet in the mouth," he says. "When we fall asleep, saliva production, which naturally protects our teeth, decreases. If parents don't wipe their baby's teeth and gums with a clean, wet washcloth, or young children don't brush their teeth right before bed, milk or juice acids will eat away at the tooth enamel, creating a terrible recipe for cavities."

This sets the stage for dental decay, the most common chronic disease in children. The good news is that it's 100 percent preventable.

The most obvious protective tool in your dental arsenal is the toothbrush, which should be used twice daily. And while this may seem like a no-brainer, there's one area of pediatric dental hygiene where many parents fall short—flossing. Follow this guideline: Teeth that touch need to be flossed.

"You can brush 20 times a day, but without flossing, you're only cleaning two-thirds of the tooth structure," says Dr. Bresler. "When it comes to your nighttime routine, think FBI: Floss, Brush, Irrigate (rinse)."

Pediatric dental hygiene comes down to one all-important rule: Prevention is key. Staying loyal to regular brushing and flossing is one piece of the puzzle; routine dental visits is the other must. Ideally, children should visit their dentist every six months for checkups and cleanings, with X-rays being taken annually. This provides your pediatric dentist with a comprehensive snapshot of your child's oral health.

Doc Bresler's Cavity Busters is Philadelphia's largest (and free) children's dental education program. Their goal is to educate children, parents and caregivers on optimum oral health care. In addition to brushing twice daily, flossing, and booking regular checkups, you can also help prevent childhood tooth decay by offering nutritious foods and healthy snacks, and reducing sugary foods and drinks. Does that mean cookies and candy are out of the question? Let's just say, "Everything in moderation."

"Healthy eating, daily brushing and flossing, regular checkups, and preventative care make for healthy teeth," says Dr. Bresler.

Founded in 1982, Doc Bresler's Cavity Busters has seven locations throughout Philadelphia and the suburbs, providing experienced, warm and friendly pediatric dentistry to infants, children, teens, and children with special health needs.

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The Philadelphia Union soccer team is hiring a chief tattoo officer. GETTY IMAGES

Philadelphia Union soccer team seeks 'chief tattoo officer'

The applicant must be familiar with styles such as "American Traditional, Realism, Japanese," and have a fondness for snakes.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

With the love of the game of soccer apparently comes a desire to get inked and, at least in Philadelphia, a need for a full-time tattoo artist.

The Philadelphia Union, part of Major League Soccer, is advertising for a full-time "chief tattoo officer" for those players, staffers and fans who have been clamoring for one or two or 10 tats.

"Must enjoy tattooing snake designs (after all, we have a snake in our crest)," the team noted in its advertisement for the job.

"Our CTO, Chief Tattoo Officer, will be responsible for providing services to players and front office staff," the Union wrote in the job listing. "Occasionally, fan events will also be held with the CTO for the most loyal fans who want a tattoo to represent their passion for their favorite soccer club, the Union."

The listing is open to individual artists or tattoo parlors. Applicants must operate a "shop of permanent residency" in Pennsylvania, New Jersey or Delaware. The Union is seeking an artist with experience in styles such as "American Traditional, Realism, Japanese and more," as well as a fondness for snakes.

The Union made the playoffs for the first time in 2016, ending a long drought, but performed below expectations and lost in the first round. They're expected to perform better this season.

But what they lack in trophies, they make up for with die-hard fans. Local backers formed the "Sons of Ben" team support group in 2007 — in a nod to Benjamin Franklin — before the Union was even officially formed.

BRIEF

No LOVE in Philly as famed sculpture undergoes repairs

Philadelphia's famed LOVE sculpture is going to be out of public view for the next few months as it undergoes a restoration, the Center City District announced.

The sculpture is well-known as an ever-popular destination for selfie-snapping tourists. It was moved from its home in LOVE Park across the street to Dilworth Park a year ago for the park's $16.5 million renovation.

"Robert Indiana's iconic LOVE sculpture was last refurbished in 1998 and is again in need of a full conservation treatment," Margot Berg, public art director of the Office of Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy said.

Robert Indiana's LOVE sculpture SAM NEWHOUSE

The statue's restoration is estimated to cost $50,000, the Inquirer reported.

The statue will be removed from Dilworth Park on Wednesday. It is expected to return to its original home when the newly renovated LOVE Park reopens later this summer.

"Conservators will strip all of the paint from the sculpture and will apply an anticorrosion primer to the surface," according to a release about the planned work.

"The LOVE sculpture will then be repainted in its iconic red, blue and green paint, followed by the application of a clear protective coating." It will be reinstalled a few weeks later.

The statue first came to Philly in 1976. SAM NEWHOUSE

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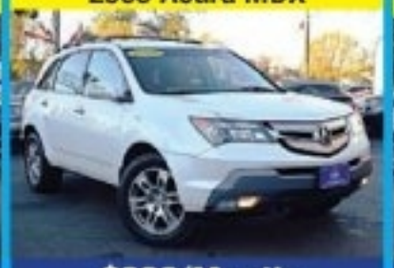

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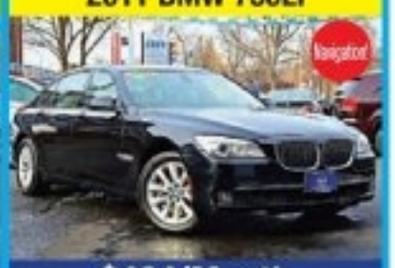

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Which states see the biggest economic boost from immigration?

A Yemeni business owner closes the gate to his store in New York City. GETTY IMAGES

WalletHub analyzed the regions that benefit the most and the least from the foreign-born population.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
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Immigration has long been a contentious issue in the United States, but since President Donald Trump took office about a month ago, it's been at the forefront.

Trump has wasted no time trying to make good on his campaign cornerstones, writing executive orders to move forward on a border wall between the U.S. and Mexico and a controversial ban on refugees and immigrants from seven mostly Muslim countries.

With protests, court orders and, of course, tweets over both issues showing no sign of stopping, WalletHub analyzed which states, including Washington, D.C., benefit most — and least — from immigrants.

The personal finance website used four factors — immigrant workforce, socioeconomic contribution, brain gain and innovators, and international students — and 18 metrics such as total work visas per capita, median household income and number of international students per total students to make its determinations.

California, New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts and the District of Columbia round out the overall top five. Bringing up the rear are Wyoming, Louisiana, South Dakota, Kentucky and Mississippi.

The states with the highest percentage of jobs created by immigrant-owned business out of total jobs are California, New Jersey, Hawaii, Florida and New York.

Oklahoma, Iowa, Mississippi, Arkansas and West Virginia have the lowest numbere.

Maryland is the lead state with the highest median household income of the foreign-born population, while New Mexico has the lowest income in that category.

Not surprisingly considering Silicon Valley, the state that is tops for the number of foreign-born STEM workers — science, technology, engineering and math — is California. New Jersey, Delaware, Massachusetts and New York round out the top five. The fewest number of immigrant STEM workers are found in North Dakota. REUTERS

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Trump handling of security information at Mar-a-Lago queried by House panel

President Donald Trump's handling of U.S. security information at his Florida resort came under congressional scrutiny on Tuesday as a watchdog panel asked the White House to explain reports that Trump dealt with a sensitive foreign policy issue in view of club guests.

Representative Jason Chaffetz, head of the House of Representatives oversight committee, sent a letter asking the White House for details on how Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe responded to a North Korean ballistic missile test while visiting the Mar-a-Lago golf resort over the weekend.

Photos taken by private guests in the club's public dining area showed Trump and Abe conferring and looking at documents while surrounded by their

The Mar-a-Lago Resort GETTY IMAGES

aides following Pyongyang's missile launch.

"Reports and social media accounts have suggested White House staff used their own cell phones to provide illumination for reviewing documents," Chaffetz said in a letter to White House chief of staff Reince Priebus.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer told reporters on Tuesday that Trump had been briefed on the North Korea situation with his national security team at a Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility, or SCIF, in Mar-a-Lago before and after the dinner.

Spicer said a photo was taken later at the dinner Trump attended, and "everyone jumped to nefarious conclusions" about what may or may not have been discussed.

"There is a SCIF there. It was utilized on two occasions that evening to convey to the president by his national security team the situation in North Korea," Spicer said.

While recognizing Spicer had denied any classified material was present in the dining room, Chaffetz said: "Discussions with foreign leaders regarding international missile tests, and documents used to support those discussions, are presumptively sensitive." REUTERS

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the word

RACHAEL CLEMMONS
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Scarlett Johansson doesn't believe in monogamy

In an interview with Playboy, problematic fave Scarlett Johansson says a whole lot about monogamy, matrimony and responsibility.

"I think the idea of marriage is very romantic," says the 32-year-old actress. "I don't think it's natural to be a monogamous person. And the fact that it is such work for so many people — for everyone — the fact of that proves it is not a natural thing."

Johansson has been married twice: first to Ryan Reynolds in 2010, and then to Romain Dauriac in 2014. She and Dauriac share a daughter, Rose Dorothy, who was born the same year. They split this year.

However, it looks like ScarJo gave this interview while she was still married (she refers to her husband throughout). It seems rude to be married, talk endlessly about your lack of faith in monogamy and matrimony, and then go out and about without your wedding ring. If you hate the idea of marriage so much, maybe stop getting married all the time?

Just a helpful thought.

Ben Affleck doesn't want to be Batman anymore

It's really hard to take Ben Affleck's existential sorrow seriously, but here we are. According to Jezebel, sad Ben Affleck is over being Batman already. Is anyone surprised? During the latest episode of "Collider Movie Talk," host John Campea said, "Please take this with a grain of salt. … I've talked to three separate people, who are connected in some way, to what is going on over at Warner Bros." Campea continued, "They're telling me that Ben Affleck, make no mistake, he does want out. He doesn't want to be Batman anymore."

It's crazy, because nobody even asked Ben Affleck to be *in*. So, dude, thanks for giving the people what they wanted (I guess?).

Chris Evans is back on the prowl

Last week, news broke that Jenny Slate and Chris Evans had broken up. For those of you who didn't know they were together — I know, right? Many sources have side-eyed their union, suspecting that Slate and Evans got together sometime during the 34-year-old actress' now-defunct marriage. According to TMZ, he's already hooking up with randoms and inviting them over to his friend's "private mansion." Insert requisite eye-roll here, please.

As much as I'd like to love Chris Evans, sometimes I fear that he suffers from being basic as hell. On the one hand, he's a very good-looking bro trapped in a Marvel contract. On the other hand, the 35-year-old "Captain America: Civil War" star has been in a Twitter feud with a white-nationalist troll for the past week, which is pretty fantastic. Maybe, just maybe, he's just the kind of complicated man we need during these complicated times.

More on that Lea Michele-Naya Rivera feud

It feels like "Glee" ended decades ago, but somehow we're still talking about it.

Did you know that toward the end of the show, stars Lea Michele and Naya Rivera had major drama? No? Here's the scoop: Rivera admitted as much in her 2016 book, "Sorry Not Sorry," saying that Michele stopped speaking to her completely by Season 6. She wrote, "I doubt we'll ever sit on her couch and eat kale together again, but the rumors of our 'feud' were blown out of proportion."

Have you stopped giggling yet? So ridiculous, these two.

Anyway: In promoting his newest effort, "Feud," Ryan Murphy (who wrote, directed and produced "Glee") finally spoke up about the supposed longstanding tension — and the women weren't the only ones clashing. "There were many boys on our show that didn't get along," he said. "And you never hear about that. You never hear about that in our culture."

Touché, my dude. Touché. Then again, "Feud" is about the legendary rivalry between actresses Joan Crawford and Bette Davis, so maybe it's OK to take advantage of the competition between women if it's for a paycheck.

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Finding hope in the face of unspeakable horrors

Colin Hanks talks about his doc looking at Eagles of Death Metal after the 2015 Paris attacks.

MATT PRIGGE
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When Colin Hanks first heard about the Paris attacks on Nov. 13, 2015, he thought about his friends: the members of the band Eagles of Death Metal. The rock 'n' rollers were playing a show at Le Bataclan when terrorists entered the theater. When the ordeal ended, 89 had been killed. The band escaped, but Nick Alexander, who manned the merchandise table, was among the dead.

"I wanted to help my friends in any way I could," Hanks tells us. "It was me just saying, 'If you want to talk about this, we can talk about this. If you don't want to talk, you don't have to.'"

Frontman Jesse Hughes takes the stage defiantly in Colin Hanks' doc "Eagles of Death Metal: Nos Amis (Our Friends)," about the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in Paris and now available to stream on HBO. HBO

That said, it wasn't Hanks' idea to make what became "Eagles of Death Metal: Nos Amis (Our Friends)," his new documentary, which follows the band as they returned to Le Bataclan just three months later to finish their show. Their respective managers had discussed having cameras there to document what would be a trying experience. Hanks signed on a month before it happened, though the band were at first, understandably, reluctant.

"They said, 'Look, this is really difficult and hard. We don't want to bring a friend into this,'" Hanks recalls. But they changed their minds, in part because Hanks came from a good place. "We wanted to make something positive from this. The initial idea was to be there when everyone is collectively picking themselves up and trying to move forward."

The actor-turned-filmmaker doesn't only focus on the concert. The first half-hour relates Eagles of Death Metal's history: how longtime friends Jesse Hughes and Josh Homme decided to form a band when the latter recognized that the former needed an outlet for his considerable energy.

Hanks' movie is as much about their origins and the unspeakable tragedy as it is about Hughes and Homme's friendship. Homme also founded Queens of the Stone Age, but he tries to play drums in Eagles of Death Metal as often as he can. In fact, he wasn't there for the Bataclan show, and spends much of the film trying to comfort a traumatized, often fragile Hughes.

> *"We wanted to make something positive from this."*
> Colin Hanks

"That's something we don't see very often: someone trying to help his friends," Hanks explains. "You always see someone struggle. Very rarely do you get to see the side of the story in which the person who wasn't there, who had guilt for not being there, tries to help their friends and family get through that."

When Eagles of Death Metal's return show was announced, there were many questions about it being too soon. The band members themselves were nervous. But they insisted the concert be positive.

"It was about saying, 'We're here now. Let's not obsess over all of the things we could have done differently. Let's live in this moment now,'" Hanks says. "That's what rock 'n' roll is supposed to be: finding that moment of escape or soul-searching or solace. It's about being in as much of the moment as you can be."

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Tony Ward reimagines erotica for the 21st century

"Persistence of Seduction" opens Feb. 18.

A.D. AMOROSI
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

Philly-based erotic photographer Tony Ward has a new show at Jed Williams Gallery. PROVIDED

Philadelphia photographer Tony Ward has led a charmed life, moving as he has from the documentary-style reportage of his youth, snapping church life at 16th and Fitzwater, to the grainy black-and-white erotica work that made him famous. Throughout the 1980s and '90s, Ward was a fixture of glossy high-minded photography, often involving alternative lifestyles, graphic sexuality and, in the case of his monograph, "Obsessions," many local faces and bodies. Since 2010, Ward has taught photography courses at University of Pennsylvania's School of Design, and this weekend commences a softer, more-PG-rated exhibition of new work, "Persistence of Seduction," at the Jed Williams Gallery in Bella Vista.

How did you make the transition from corporate work to the racy erotica work you've become known for?

I had an epiphany in the spring of 1993 that revealed a destiny to explore elements of life that are indivisibly linked to humanity. In many ways during this period I felt a kinship to Alfred Kinsey, the legendary investigator of human sexuality. That led to the exploration of sex in its innumerable manifestations. Fortunately, I had a patron, a publisher that supported my vision: none other than Bob Guccione, founder of Penthouse.

Was it a big deal that you used so many locals within the pages of your books?

Philadelphia is my hometown, which served as an enormous laboratory. By the early 1990s I had plenty of subjects to select from in our extensive multicultural community. At first, I began by photographing my former wife, and that established a certain amount of credibility in exploring the subject with friends and acquaintances. Displaying and exhibiting the intimacy I explored with my wife led to countless other women and men who wanted to explore their sexual limits before the camera as well.

What is the mainstream porn biz like now compared to how it was then?

Individual adult-related businesses have been on the decline since the internet and digital revolution began to impact magazine sales. I suppose there are companies making money in creative ways using the best support internet developers can offer. Big players like Playboy and Penthouse were forced to pivot away from print publishing and focus their working capital in developing brand recognition via digital media.

Tell us about teaching photography in Philly.

I have had a distinct opportunity of working with students at the University of Pennsylvania since the fall of 2010. [It is] challenging and fulfilling to explore the minds and innate talents of some of the best and brightest young people from all walks of life and all over the world. We discuss the history of photography, the evolution of analog photography to digital capture. We also explore the invention of the camera obscura and its impact today on contemporary culture. Modern photographic devices, including cellphones and tablets, may have contributed to a narcissist culture.

PROVIDED

How does any level of heteronormative female nude photography with an erotic edge operate now in an age of enlightenment?

I think we are unfortunately far away from an "age of enlightenment." The big players in mass media today, television networks and publishing houses, sanction carefully what they allow the mass public to view. Their direct ties to advertising dollars of major corporations that support these media entities and our provincial social ideals leave us far behind European cultures in accepting nudity and eroticism.

PROVIDED

What can we expect from this new show?

Jed Williams is a neighbor in Bella Vista, where I lived for 25 years and created many of the works that are represented in the show. This show represents a coming home — a visit to the old neighborhood. There are subtle differences between hardcore pornography and eroticism. I believe I've honored my models by presenting them in beautiful images and relevant tableaux.

Favorite photo of the exhibition?

I've been asked this question many times and it's always the same answer. Pictures that we archive are like children. It's a sin to say one is the best.

"Tony Ward: Persistence of Seduction" runs Feb. 18, 5 p.m. -7 p.m. through Feb. 18-24 at Jed Williams Gallery, 615 Bainbridge St. Jedwilliamsgallery.com.

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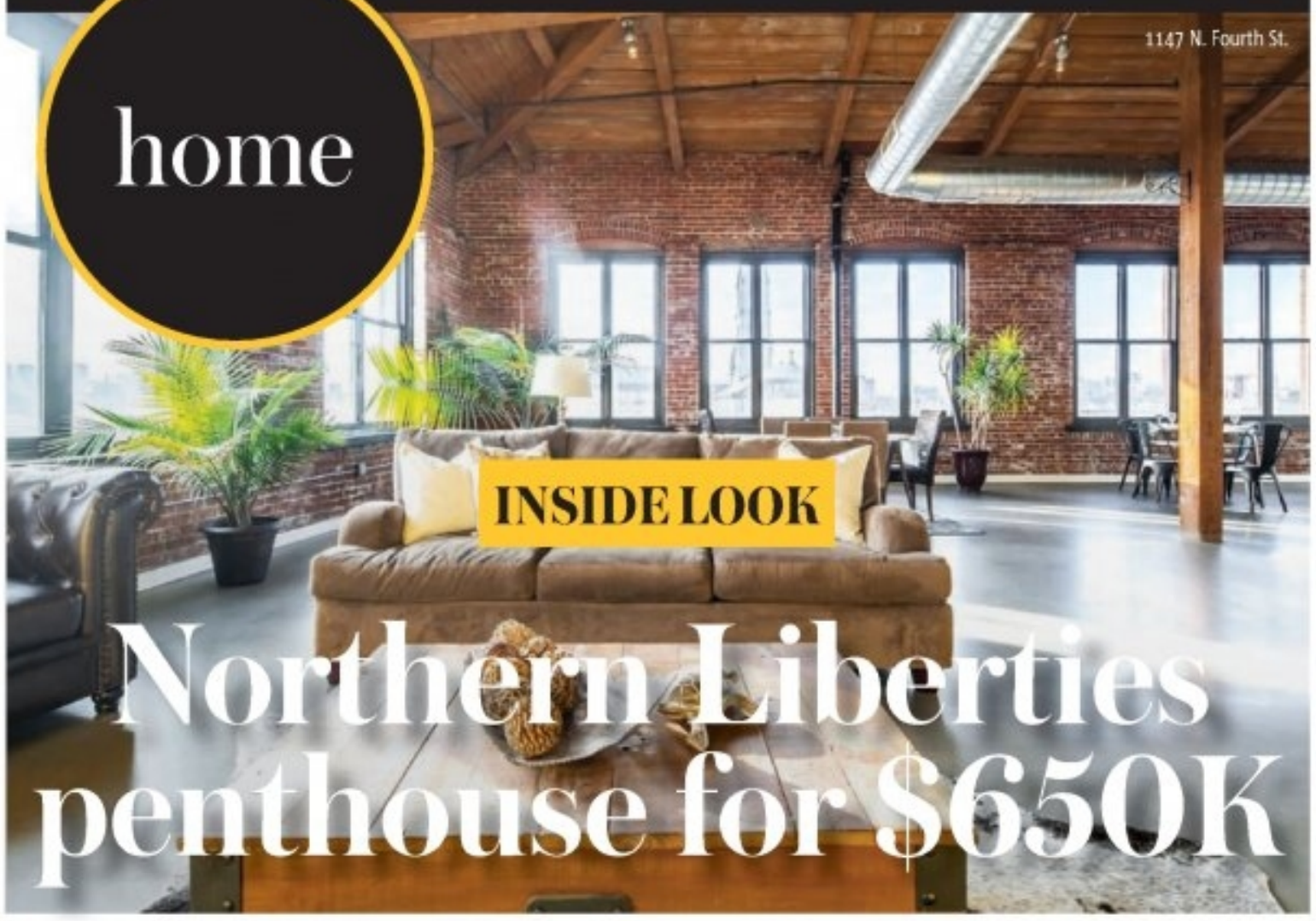

INSIDE LOOK

Northern Liberties penthouse for $650K

Your weekly dose of #RealEstatePorn.

ALEXIS SACHDEV
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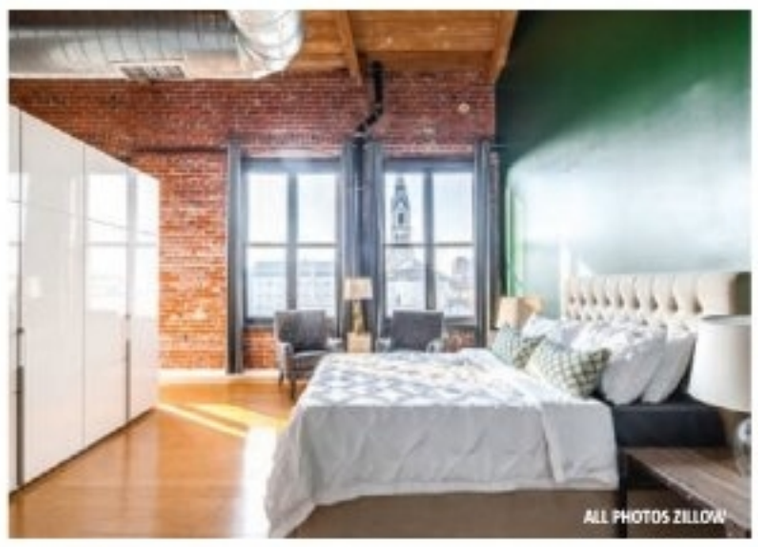
An urban penthouse loft in the heart of Northern Liberties hit the market late last week, asking $639,000 for two bedrooms and two bathrooms.

The uber-modern open layout, on the top floor of the Cigar Factory at 1147 N. Fourth St., has all the hallmarks of modern city digs: Exposed brick and wooden beams, tons of natural light, high ceilings and funky steelwork around the slanted ceilings.

But our favorite part of this house might be the master bathroom suite: From the emerald wall complemented by grey tiles to a luxurious soaking tub at center stage, this room was designed for relaxation.

Built-in custom closets act as barriers between the master bedroom and the main living space, where the bulk of your oohing and ahhing will take place with the 180-degree views of the city and skyline from oversized windows. Head into the customized kitchen area, perfect for the home chef with top-of-the-line appliances like a Sub-Zero fridge and a Wolf flat-top range; or sit around the black and grey marble island for the morning coffee from your espresso maker.

A bi-level loft, this apartment's upstairs features a second bedroom or additional office space, where vaulted ceilings and skylights complement the main floor below.



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5 Running backs the Eagles could, should try to draft

The Eagles have a big need at running back and the 2017 draft offers some very attractive possibilities.

LUKE MILLER
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Cook projects as a do-everything featured running back, the kind the Eagles desperately need. GETTY IMAGES

If you're of the mindset, as most fans are, that Carson Wentz needs weapons around him, in as much abundance and speed as possible, then you (and Carson) are in luck. The 2017 NFL draft is awash in talent at running back through all three days.

With the distinct possibility that Ryan Mathews is on the outs, it may soon be hard to see much resemblance between the current backfield and the one that was seemingly overburdened with Pro Bowl runners after the Eagles acquired Mathews, DeMarco Murray and Darren Sproles.

Starting at the top of the draft and top of the class, it seems unlikely LSU's Leonard Fournette will be available when the Eagles pick (14 or 15 depending on coin toss with Colts). Here are some realistic options:

1 Dalvin Cook

Florida State

Last seen dropping 207 total yards on Michigan in a Capital One Bowl victory, Cook racked up 4,464 rushing and 5,399 total yards in just three years in college. Add in 48 touchdowns and a career 6.5 yards per carry, and there aren't any production issues here. With speed to burn and no worries about whether or not he can handle a full workload, he would come to the Eagles expected to take over the starting role on day one, but cost no less than their first-round pick.

2 Alvin Kamara

Tennessee

One of the most intriguing backs is Kamara. He doesn't let the fact that he could outrun almost all defenders keep him from bowling over a few, or more accurately, as many as he can get his shoulder pads on.

Kamara will likely be available on Day 2 because he only carried the ball 210 times in his career. He did add 74 receptions onto that and manage to score 23 times in that limited play. But he also had his share of fumbles. You can look at this limited use as a positive or a negative. Or, you could check out Kamara's opposite …

3 Donnel Pumphrey

San Diego State

With 1,059 carries, he broke Ron Dayne's career rushing yardage college record during this year's Las Vegas Bowl. If that sounds like it must be a lot of yards, you're right: 6,405 to be exact. Add in another 1,158 receiving yards for good measure.

So why isn't Pumphrey going off the board ahead of Cook and Fournette? Either because he's just 5-foot-8, 169 pounds, or because winning the Mountain West Conference just doesn't garner the same respect it did when Utah and TCU were still in the fold, take your pick.

4 James Connor

Pittsburgh

Other late-round possibilities include in-state product Connor, one of the best stories of the draft. Connor was the 2014 ACC Player of the Year before injuring his MCL in the first game of 2015 and then discovering he had Hodgkin's Lymphoma during his rehab.

After a recovery that included meeting Eric Berry, the Chiefs' All-Pro safety who also beat the disease, Connor returned in 2016 to First-Team All-Conference honors, a 1,000-yard season, 16 touchdowns and 100-yard performances in upsets of Penn State and Clemson.

Connor is a bruising power rusher whose combine will be closely watched by teams curious about his second gear.

5 De'Veon Smith

Michigan

Smith has been using the postseason All-Star games to his benefit. A good week at the East-West Shrine game saw him added to the Senior Bowl, where he had a chance to play while underclassmen were sitting at home. wRunning backs coach Duce Staley was the offensive coordinator for Smith's East team in the Shrine game.

At Michigan, Smith became the lead back under Jim Harbaugh, and followed 753 yards rushing in 2015 with 846 while running to the Orange Bowl this season.

The Eagles' have myriad options at this position, and while the thought of Cook or Fournette dropping to the Birds in the first might make fans drool, they can also rest assured missing out on one of those two won't make the draft a bust at running back.

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Will Simmons play at all in 2016-17?

Will Ben Simmons lace them up this season? NBAE/GETTY IMAGES

Stop us if you've heard this one before.

The Sixers have continued to lessen expectations as to when, or whether, first overall draft pick Ben Simmons will suit up this season.

Initially when he had surgery during the preseason — which was by all accounts successful — to repair a broken toe, Simmons was projected to return sometime in 2017.

In January it was surmised by GM Bryan Colangelo and others that the All-Star break was a good milestone and that Simmons could hit the floor just afterward. He's been practicing and traveling with the team for weeks, but now, next week seems like a pipe dream.

Now, it seems doubtful that he will even play in 2017 at all.

"He is moving forward," Sixers head coach Brett Brown told reporters, "but it's at a very slow pace, our pace. I think when we all get back and he's around the team again, because it's not an ideal situation to manufacture 5-on-5 during a break, then we can better craft and construct to allow the return to play to be more responsible."

There will come a point at which they close up shop and shut him down for the season. The same happened with Nerlens Noel a few seasons ago, along with Joel Embiid. Both were, according to the team at the time, working toward making a late-season debut and neither wound up playing.

Simmons recently turned 20 and would relinquish rookie status in 2017-18 by playing. The Sixers won't be playoff contenders, so there isn't a winning-incentive to rush him back, but having him get some experience with Embiid and his teammates on the floor would be very beneficial. This is especially true as the Sixers face an important draft and an unclear future as far as roles and playing chemistry goes.

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Here's how the Eagles can open up cap space

As it stands, if the Eagles want to run at a big wide receiver like Alshon Jeffery (worth an expected $14 million per year or so), while also filling out other needs they'll need to make a few moves before free agency starts.

Here are a few financially smart moves they can make.

Mychal Kendricks may have played his last game as an Eagle. GETTY IMAGES

1. Restructure Jason Peters' contract
Peters is a future hall of famer and the anchor of the Eagles' offensive line. But the left tackle is 35-years-old and making $11.2 million in 2017, the most of any Philly player. Cutting him would only count as a $2 million cap hit, but maybe they can get him to help them save some money by restructuring.

2. Cut Connor Barwin
Barwin is a fan favorite and was a sack machine for Philly in recent seasons, but the 30-year-old has an extremely team friendly contract, with just $600,000 in dead cap money if he is cut and over $7 million in potential savings. The Eagles are set with their pass rush, with Brandon Graham, Fletcher Cox and Vinny Curry locked up long term.

3. Trade Mychal Kendricks
Kendricks has fallen out of favor in Philly, having played just 27 percent of snaps in 2017. He doesn't seem to have a place in Jim Schwartz' defensive scheme but is owed $6.6 million thanks to a Chip Kelly-era extension. Philly would save just $1.8 million of that if he is cut, so that makes little sense. The best case would be to find a trade partner willing to take most of the salary in exchange for a later-round pick. Many news outlets have reported this scenario is likely.

4. Cut Ryan Mathews
Mathews was the Eagles best running back last season but that isn't saying much. When he wasn't hurt, he looked fantastic — but he also shared time with Darren Sproles (back for one more season) and a few journeymen including returning rookie Wendell Smallwood. Can Smallwood take over as a primary back? Will the Eagles draft a cheaper alternative in a later round? Both would make a lot of sense, as would opening up $4 million in cap space by letting Mathews walk.

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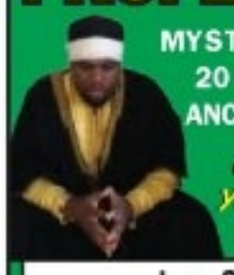

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Down
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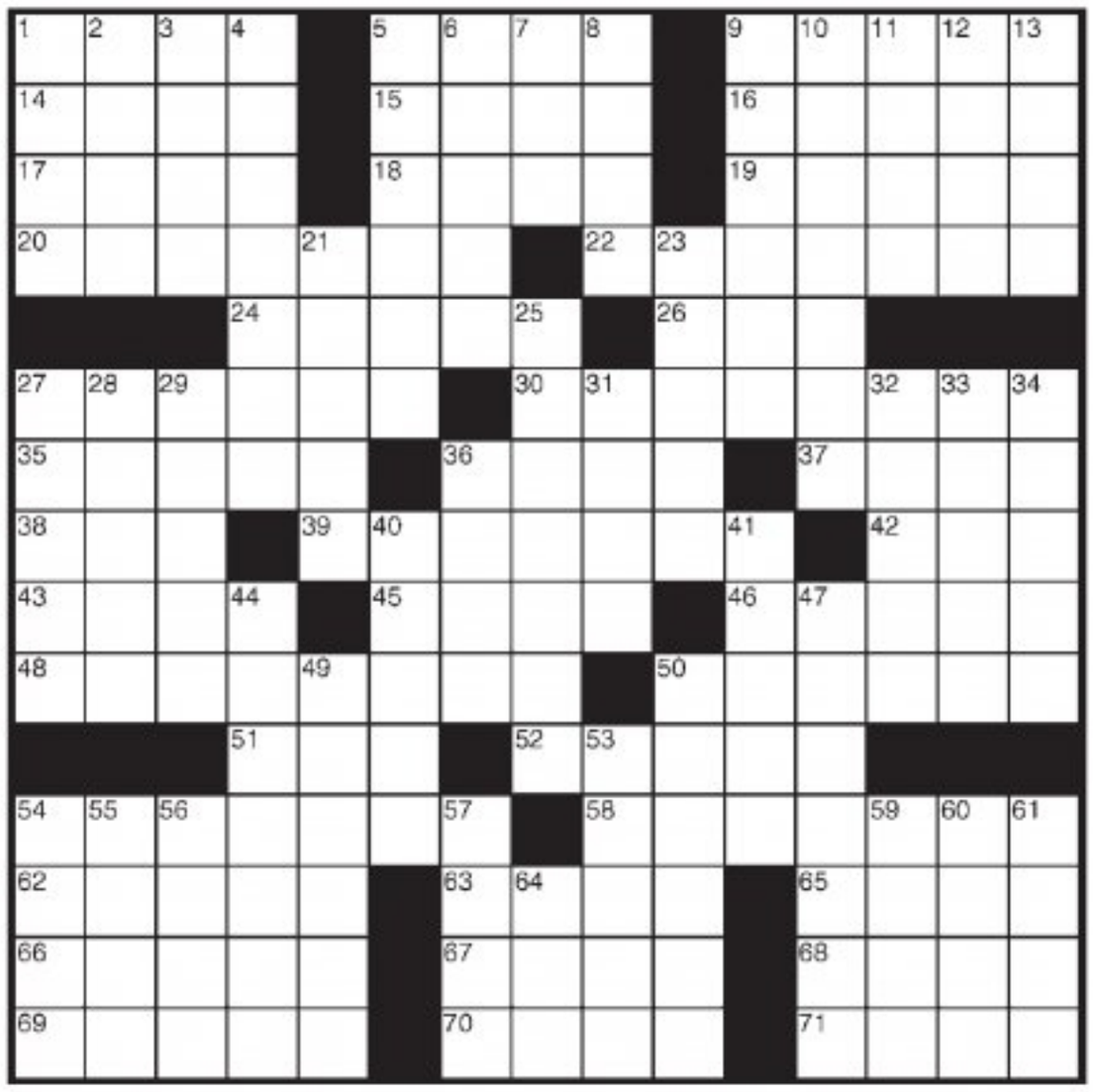

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easy

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Aries Be confident about your words and actions. Mark your territory and prove to everyone you encounter that you know what you are doing and plan to get ahead.

Taurus Difficulties with a colleague will set you back. Don't meddle or interfere in someone else's personal affairs. Focus on making personal changes, not on changing others.

Gemini Emotional misunderstandings will develop if you are evasive about your feelings and desires. Honesty will play an important role when dealing with matters.

Cancer Problems will arise with some former associates. Avoid anyone who might be a bad influence. Stick to people you can trust and who share your concerns and interests.

Leo Share information with people you want to spend more time with. The friendship you have will provide you with a comfortable forum to promote your services.

Virgo Money matters and medical issues will surface if you don't take good care of your health and investments. Don't trust anyone but yourself.

Libra Disagreements will not be in your best interest. If you harbor differences, back away and give yourself time to consider your options. Choose to do what's best for you.

Scorpio Take care of legal and financial matters on your own. Keeping secrets will be in your best interest. Make changes at home that will allow you to live life your way.

Sagittarius Romantic relationships will lead to a happy home environment and greater personal security. Working as part of a team will encourage long-term plans.

Capricorn Problems while traveling or trying to relay important information will arise. Do your best not to get upset over or overreact to others' words or actions.

Aquarius Sign up for whatever interests you. Past friendships and experiences will play a role in some important decisions. Make a commitment to something you believe in.

Pisces You can offer to help others, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Set reasonable expectations and only promise what you know you can deliver. EUGENIA LAST

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R	C	P	T	■	E	K	I	N	G	■	T	O	R	E
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